



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
19 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

Yesterday afternoon Ky told General Lansdale that the generals have decided to back him for president. The word was even then being passed to the still-hospitalized Thieu. This sentiment on the part of the generals does not surprise us--and probably was not altogether news to Thieu.

2. Communist China

There are strong signs that the Mao-Lin Piao-Chou En-lai alliance is beginning to crack. Red Guard groups close to Lin Piao are mounting a scathing attack on Foreign Minister Chen Yi. Chen Yi, we feel quite sure, is under the wing of Chou En-lai.

3. Burma

Signs are mounting that General Ne Win is considering major modifications in his highly doctrinaire "Burmese Way to Socialism." Something drastic is surely needed if he is to save the country's rapidly sinking economy.

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4. United Kingdom

London has reopened the question of pulling its forces out of Singapore and Malaysia. One Foreign Office official says the cabinet wants to leave the Southeast Asian mainland completely by the mid-1970s. Foreign Secretary Brown will likely bring this up during his talks in Washington this week.

5. Soviet Union

Moscow and its East European allies have come up with an agreement to establish a communications satellite system open to world-wide membership. This is probably not meant as a direct challenge to the US-sponsored International Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT). There is evidence instead that the Soviets hope to link the two systems together.

6. France

After checking with Couve de Murville, Herve Alphand says the French Government will do everything possible to prevent the Bertrand Russell trial from being held in France.

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